CLAIMS:

1. A method of conveying a banknote which involves the steps of

frictionally engaging at least three points with the banknote so as to partially deform the banknote, two of the points engaging opposite faces of the banknote; and

moving at least one of the points in a direction of intended movement of the banknote so that, at least during conveyance of the banknote, the points have a fixed relative spacing for any given position of the points and for any given banknote and wherein the at least one point moves to convey the banknote against a reference surface to align the banknote.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the points are arranged in a line.

3. A method according to any preceding claim which includes the further step of moving the banknote relative to at least one point while moving the at least one point.

4. A method according to claim 3 which includes the step of rotating the banknote while moving the points to align the banknote.

5. A method according to any preceding claim which includes the step of inhibiting movement of the banknote if a force required to move the banknote exceeds a predetermined limit.

6. A banknote conveyor which includes at least two surfaces which frictionally engage opposite sides of a banknote so as to deform the banknote and which move to transport the banknote,

said surfaces being arranged so that, at least during transport of the banknote, the surfaces have a fixed relative spacing for any given position of the surfaces and for any given banknote, said conveyor further including a reference surface against which the banknote is conveyed.

7. A banknote conveyor according to claim 6 wherein said surfaces define at least three points of engagement with the banknote.

8. A banknote conveyor according to claim 7 wherein the banknote moves relative to at least one point while being conveyed.

9. A banknote conveyor according to any one of claims 6 to 8 which includes a first and a second corrugated roller.

10. A banknote conveyor according to claim 9 wherein the first and the second rollers are engageable to create a seal.

11. A banknote conveyor according to any one of claims 6 to 10 which includes a first and a second cam.

12. A banknote conveyor according to any one of claims 6 to 9 which includes three rollers.

13. A banknote conveyor according to any one of claims 6 to 12 which includes means for limiting movement of the conveyor if a force required to move the banknote exceeds a predetermined limit.

14. A banknote conveyor which includes at least two surfaces moveable between a first position and a second position so that in the first position the surfaces define an undulate banknote path and in the second position the surfaces engage to provide a seal.

15. A banknote conveyor according to claim 14 wherein said surfaces define at least a portion of a banknote entryway.

16. A banknote changer comprising banknote uptake means and banknote alignment means, the uptake and alignment means each further comprising a banknote conveyor of any one of claims 6 to 15.

17. A banknote conveyor which engages a banknote by means of surfaces which define a gap of predetermined configuration which is wider than the thickness of the banknote and of non-linear configuration so as to cause bending of the banknote when viewed in the direction of transport so that the force by which the banknote is gripped is dependent upon the rigidity of the banknote and which acts to align the banknote by conveying the banknote against a reference surface.

18. A banknote conveyor which includes at least two complementary surfaces which at least partially engage the banknote and move to convey the banknote, at least one of said surfaces including blocking means to prevent insertion of objects into the conveyor when said surfaces are stationary.

19. A banknote conveyor according to claim 18 wherein the blocking means includes notches formed on at least one of the complementary surfaces.

20. A banknote conveyor according to claim 18 or claim 19 which includes means for inhibiting the movement of said surfaces when the conveyor is not in use.

21. A method of conveying a banknote which includes the steps of:

conveying the banknote with a force dependent on a rigidity of the banknote and

inhibiting movement of the banknote if the force exceeds a predetermined limit.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein a torque limiter is used to inhibit movement of the banknote.

23. A method according to claim 21 wherein a clutch is used to inhibit movement of the banknote.